

## Message Text

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S/S - MR. FRY

NEA:SSOBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE ,19126

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, XM

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO COLOMBIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY  
KISSINGER TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA AT THE  
EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER: AS A RESULT OF OUR  
NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS, I AM AWARE  
OF YOUR OWN LIVELY INTEREST AND THAT OF THE COLOMBIAN  
GOVERNMENT IN THE PROGRESS OF A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST. THEREFORE, I WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
INFORM YOU OF WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIA-  
TIONS IN JERUSALEM AND DAMASCUS AND OF OUR HOPES FOR THE  
FUTURE.

3. IT WAS CLEAR AFTER THE EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED JANUARY 18 THAT A SIMILAR STEP WITH  
RESPECT TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE  
MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE THAT WAS BEING GATHERED WAS NOT TO  
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BE LOST. HAPPILY, BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL EXPRESSED

INTEREST IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND IN UTILIZING AMERICAN GOOD OFFICES TO ACHIEVE IT.

4. WE KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, AND IT WAS INDEED ARDUOUS. THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES WERE FAR APART INITIALLY AND IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE MOST PAINSTAKING EFFORT THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THEM WAS CLOSED. BUT, I WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER TENACIOUSLY THE TWO SIDES ADVANCED THEIR POSITIONS, I WAS ALWAYS CONVINCED OF THEIR GOOD FAITH AND SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT. THE DEPLORABLE EVENTS OF MAALOT AND SUBSEQUENT ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST TARGETS IN LEBANON DID NOT DIVERT THEM FROM THEIR GOAL. BOTH SIDES CLEARLY WANTED THIS AGREEMENT AND WOULD NOT BE TURNED AWAY FROM IT BY A CHAIN OF EVENTS INSTIGATED BY EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL ELEMENTS. I BELIEVE THIS CAN BE A GOOD AUGURY FOR THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS.

5. THE AGREEMENT ITSELF IS WELL DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MAIN PURPOSES. THE CEASE-FIRE IS TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED FROM THE DATE OF ITS SIGNING. THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES WILL BE SEPARATED BY A BUFFER ZONE AND THE LEVELS OF THEIR ARMAMENTS WILL BE LIMITED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ZONE. A UNITED NATIONS FORCE WILL BE EMPLACED TO INSPECT COMPLIANCE. PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE BODIES OF THE DEAD WILL BE EXCHANGED. IN BRIEF, ALL THE PAINFUL, VEXING ELEMENTS EXISTING IN THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION THAT HAVE PRODUCED AND PERPETUATED A BLOODY WAR OF ATTRITION IN RECENT MONTHS WILL BE REMOVED OR NEUTRALIZED.

6. WE MUST, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE REALISTICALLY WHAT THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT. IT IS NOT A PEACE AGREEMENT, AS ITS FINAL PARAGRAPH STATES; IT IS A STEP TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 OF OCTOBER 22, 1973. THE BASIC ISSUES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA REMAIN, AND IF THIS NEGOTIATION IS ANY INDICATION, THEIR RESOLUTION WILL BE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX.

7. BUT I BELIEVE WE MAY BE PERMITTED REAL HOPE FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE BY WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AS PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SAID, A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED. WE CONSIDER THIS AGREEMENT TO BE A PIVOTAL ONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1949, SYRIA HAS MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL; THIS CANNOT FAIL TO HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON OTHER ARAB STATES WHO HAVE RESISTED ANY COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATION. FOR ARAB STATES ALREADY

EMBARKED ON THIS COURSE THE AGREEMENT CAN ONLY REINFORCE THEIR COMMITMENT. FOR ISRAEL, THE AGREEMENT MEANS A SURCEASE, IN WHICH ITS OWN THINKING ABOUT THE SHAPE OF

ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS CAN FURTHER EVOLVE.

8. THE SYRIA-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. A FOUNDATION IS NOW ESTABLISHED WITHIN WHICH THE SHOOTING CAN STOP AND PREPARATIONS CAN BEGIN FOR CONSIDERING THOSE BASIC ISSUES THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN A PEACE AGREEMENT.

9. DURING MY TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST I WAS KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS IN FOLLOWING UP OUR DECISIONS AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING. I AM GLAD THAT THE PREPARATIONS FOR INITIAL SESSIONS OF THE TWO WORKING GROUPS ARE WELL UNDERWAY. I APPRECIATE YOUR WISE COUNSEL AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL LET ME KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE THE WORK OF THESE GROUPS MOST MEANINGFUL TO ALL OUR GOVERNMENTS.

10. WARMEST REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER END TEXT KISSINGER

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